

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

September 16, 2008; 4:15PM
General Services Department
Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility
311 North State Street

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM in the Conference Room at the General Services Department Combined Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Present: Councilor Keith Nyhan, Chair, Councilor Liz Blanchard, Councilor Bill Stetson, Greg Banks, Melanie Doiron, Paula Mattis,

Staff: Tom Aspell, Jim Howard, Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Vanessa Ghiden

Excused: Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Dick Lemieux, Councilor Rob Werner, Matt Cashman, Mike Russell, Jeff Myers

The meeting was convened at 4:15 PM by Councilor Nyhan.

General

Councilor Nyhan opened the meeting and welcomed the new appointees to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. He noted a quorum was not present and consequently the committee would not take any votes.

Review Minutes of August 19, 2008

Though a quorum was not present, Councilor Nyhan invited committee members to review the minutes of September 9, 2008, and provide any comments. He noted that a statement should be added to the Centerpoint Church discussion indicating that the committee agreed to review the basis for the Downtown Solid Waste District and its operations. Councilor Blanchard noted there was a typographic error noting that the meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM instead of 6:45 PM as drafted. She also noted the next meeting was scheduled for September 16 instead of September 216 as drafted. The committee members present agreed with the revisions. The minutes will be presented at the next committee meeting on September 30 for consideration.

Pay As You Throw Discussion

Chip opened the discussion in that staff had prepared a presentation that provided a general fund fiscal forecast, a review of the fiscal year budget that included certain reductions in City services due to some of the forecasted financial pressures are coming into effect, an acute increase in the cost of solid waste disposal that will exert additional financial pressures on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, and a series of options relative to solid waste that the committee should consider in making their recommendation to City Council. He then turned the meeting over to Jim Howard who briefed the committee on the key financial issues facing the City in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget (and beyond) including the projected 47 % increase in the general fund transfer to the solid waste budget. Tom Aspell then briefed the committee on the challenges that the City faced in containing the tax rate increase to a 5.4 % level. Within that constraint, he noted that the General Fund expenditures increased only approximately \$ 340,000 over budgeted Fiscal Year 2008, a 0.7% increase. Tom also shared a series of service impacts that occurred to meet the budget. Chip then shared with the committee the impacts of the increased tip fees will have on upcoming budget. It was reported to maintain existing services it would be necessary to increase the general fund transfer approximately \$ 800,000 based upon current projections. Chip then presented a series of options that are available to the community including programs with reduced expenditures or methods to raise funds to maintain and enhance current service levels. A copy of the presentation is attached. General Services' staff was requested to research their files regarding the potential cost savings associated with automated collection when this type of service was considered in the City's last Request for Proposals for Solid Waste Collection Services.

After the presentation, committee members discussed briefly several of the concepts presented. There was interest among the members to maintain recycling and solid waste collection services. Jim Howard noted that staff will be making a presentation to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee meeting on this matter at their September 25 meeting. It was agreed that the committee would continue their discussions at the next meeting which is scheduled for September 30 at 4:15 PM at the COMF.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.